That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (4) of Section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985 (2 of 1986), read with Rule 3 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Rules, 1986, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to be a member of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority to fill up the vacancy that will be arising therein *w.e.f.* September 22, 2007 consequent on the expiry of the tenure of Shri Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy as a member of the Authority.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Except Government Legislative Business, nothing is going on record.

Motion for Election to the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I move the following motion:

That in pursuance of clause (j) of Section 5, read with sub-section (1) and (2) of Section 6 of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum Act, 1980 (No. 52 of 1980), this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House, to be a member of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Interruptions are not going on record. *...(Interruptions)...*

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the social security and welfare of unorganised sector workers and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was proposed.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I want to raise my serious objection. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*.... Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I rise to record my serious objection to the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007 in its present form and structure. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Bill, in its present form, is nothing but an expression of pious intent without any substantive time-bound justiciable and enforceable social security measure and appropriate funding arrangement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

The Bill only provides for constitution of Social Security Advisory Boards and similar Boards at the State level, basically advisory in character, and commitment for actual social security remained open-ended. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Bill contains neither a compelling provision regarding the floor level social security and its universal coverage to all unorganised sector workers, nor a clearly defined funding obligation and a time-frame. Without these basic ingredients of an enactment, this Bill, in its present form, stands to be reduced to some pages in the statute book. ...*(Interruptions)*... My question is: Why such a hoodwinking exercise for 93 per cent of country's workforce contributing more than 65 per cent to growing GDP numbers? ...*(Interruptions)*...

The Bill under introduction totally ignores, rather mocks at, the commitment of "comprehensive protective legislation" for the unorganised sector workers made by the UPA combine in its National Common Minimum Programme. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is deplorable that the Government did not bother to give any credence to the recommendation of the National Commission for the Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) constituted by the Government, and officially notified precisely for the same purpose of devising measures on the working conditions and social security for the unorganised sector workers. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Commission recommended and forwarded to the Government drafts of two separate comprehensive legislations for the unorganised sector workers and the agricultural workers along with a social security scheme. The Government must come out as to whether they have rejected the recommendation of the Commission as is clear from the content of this Bill, and if so, the reason therefor. ...*(Interruptions)*...

The Bill, in its Statement of Objects and Reasons mentioned about a huge deficit in labour protection and welfare measures in respect of the unorganised sector workers. But the Bill, in its content, totally ignored the labour-protection issues, and in respect of social security, the Bill contains nothing substantive but an open-ended indication on some welfare schemes without any enforceable and justiciable measures for universal coverage, justiciability and funding mechanism. ...*(Interruptions)*... This kind of open-ended indications suits better in mileage seeking political statements, and not in any legislation. The overwhelming majority of the country's workforce making a major contribution to country's growing GDP numbers do not warrant such humiliating treatment. ...*(Interruptions)*...

My question to the hon. Minister is: What about the comprehensive protective legislation for the unorganised sector workers as committed in NCMP? ...*(Interruptions)*... Will the hon. Minister clarify that the present Bill, which is not acceptable and workable in its present form, will be reformulated based on two draft bills, submitted by the NCEUS, for unorganised sector and agricultural sector workers to the Government on 6th August, 2007? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the social security and welfare of unorganised sector workers and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Special Mentions ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi ...*(Interruptions)*...

Request to release remaining funds under SGRY to the State of Rajasthan

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान): महोदय, राजस्थान को वर्ष 2005 में संपूर्ण ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना कार्यक्रम के लिए 50 लाख मीट्रिक टन खाद्यान्न का मजदूरी भुगतान के लिए आवंटित किया गया था। केन्द्र सरकार ने खाद्यान्न की सीमित उपलब्धता बताते हुए मजदूरी में 5 किलो खाद्यान्न रोजाना के स्थान पर 3 किलो रोजाना देने के आदेश करते हुए आवंटन में 1,45,158 मीट्रिक टन की कटौती कर दी। इसके फलस्वरूप कम की गई राशि के बदले राज्य सरकार को अधिक नकद राशि का भुगतान आवश्यक हो गया। इस अधिक नकद राशि रु० 17.40 करोड़ का भुगतान वर्ष 2005 से बकाया है।

राज्य सरकार इस राशि के भुगतान के लिए दो वर्ष से बीसियों पत्र लिख चुकी है, फिर भी ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय राशि रिलीज नहीं कर रहा है। मेरे राज्य सभा अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 2381 दिनांक 13 दिसंबर, 2006 के उत्तर में मंत्री महोदया ने स्वीकार किया है कि अपर्याप्त उपलब्धता की स्थिति में नकद भुगतान किया जा सकता है। इस प्रकार मंत्रालय के आदेशों के उपरांत भी उनका पालन नहीं करना किसी भी प्रकार उचित नहीं है। अत: मैं इस विशेष उल्लेख के जरिए शीघ्र भुगतान की मांग करता हूं।

Demand to give promotional opportunities to the Correspondents of Doordarshan

श्री अली अनवर (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, वर्ष 1988 में 51 दूरदर्शन संवाददाताओं की नियुक्ति सीनियर क्लास वन और क्लास वन वेतनमान में की गई थी। यह जोशी समिति की अनुशंसा पर किया गया, जिसमें कहा गया कि दूरदर्शन समाचार को विश्व-स्तरीय बनाने के लिए भारतीय सूचना सेवा के अधिकारी सक्षम नहीं हैं और टी.वी. विशेषज्ञों की जरूरत है। कुछ अधिकारियों ने इस नियुक्ति के लिए दिये गये विज्ञापन को अदालत में चुनौती दी, किन्तु वे हार गए। लेकिन, संवाददाताओं को काम करने का माहौल नहीं दिया गया।